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A TRVE RELATION OF THE MANNER OF THE Execution OF THOMAS EARLE OF STRAFFORD

With the ſeverall paſſages and circumſtances, together with his Speech to the people on the Scaffold, the 12. of *May*, 1641.

Printed for *J. A.* 1641.

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OF

THOMAS EARLE OF

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With the several particulars and
circumstances, together with his
Speech to the people on the
Scaffold, the 12. of
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THE MANNER of the Execution of *Thomas* Earle of *Strafford*,

with the ſeverall paſſages, together with his Speech on the Scaffold on *Wedneſday* the 12. of *May*, 1641.

FIrſt, there was a Scaffold provided in the uſuall place on Tower-hill for the place of Execution of the ſaid Earle, and alſo divers other Scaffolds for the ſpectators to behold the ſame, whereunto did reſort a great confluence of people, both men, women and children, with ioyfull hearts to ſee the end of his life that long ſince begun their miſeries, ſo that in a ſhort time all the windowes, houſe topps, trees, ſteeples and ſcaffolds that ſurrounded the place, were ſo filled with people, that two of the ſcaffolds by being overburthened fell down, ſo that ſome that came to be but ſpectators of the tragedy, proved Actors themſelves, for divers were ſo hurt & maimed, that the *Chirurgion* by his Iudgement cannot promiſe recovery, be-

ſides all Tower-hill was ſo crowded, that many were trodden under feete, to the great hazard of their lives; there was alſo two Trayne bands attending, with Conſtables and watchmen to prevent any mutany that ſhould happen to ariſe.

Aboute ſeaven of the clocke came the two Sherriffs of London, and preſently after the Headſman with the Blocke and Axe, aboute eleven of the clocke Sr. *William Belſore* Lievetenant of the Tower came to ſee all things in readineſſe, and then returned backe to the Tower and the Sherriffs of London with him, who preſently brought the priſoner up to his fatall place, being habited in a blacke mourning ſuite and long cloake, accompanyed by the Lord Primate of *Ireland*, the Earle of *Cleaveland*, and divers other Lords and Gentlemen, ſo ſoone as he aſſended the ſcaffold, he went to the Eaſt ſide of the ſame, and began to make a Speech to the People, but by reaſon of the diſorder and rudeneſſe of the multitude, hee was interrupted and forced to withdraw himſelfe for a time, but after a while (by the perſwations of ſome of the graver ſort) they were a little ſtilled, then hee preſently returned againe and with a cheerefull countenance, ſpake as followeth.

The

THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS SPEECH On the SCAFFOLD.

MY Lord Primate of *Ireland*, (and my Lords, and the reſt of theſe Gentlemen) it is a very great comfort to me, to have your Lordſhip by me this day, in regard I have beene known to you a long time, *I* ſhould be very glad to obtaine ſo much ſilence, as to be heard a few wordes, but *I* doubt *I* ſhall not: My Lord, *I* come hither by the good will and pleaſure of Almightie God, to pay that laſt debt *I* owe to ſinne, which is death,

and by the blessing of that God to rise againe through the merits of Christ Iesus to eternall glory; I wish I had beene private, that I might have beene heard, my Lord, if I might be so much beholding to you that I might use a few wordes, I should take it for a very great Curtesie, my Lord I come hither to submit to that judgment which hath past againust mee, I doe it with a very quiet and contented mind, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveneſse that is not spoken from the teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart; I speake it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in me arising to any Creature, I thanke God I may say truely, and my Conscience beares me witnesse, that in all my service since I have had the Honour to serve his Majesty in any Employment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall prosperitiy of King and People; if it have beene my hap to bee misconstred, it is the common portion of us all while we are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafrer, here we are subject to errour, and apt to be misjudged one of another; there is one thing I desire to cleere my selfe off, and I am very confident, I speake it with so much cleerneſse, that I hope I shall have your Christian Charrity in the beleife of it, I did alwayes ever thinke the Parliaments of England, were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and people happie, so farr have I beene from being against Parliaments; for my death I heer acquit all the world, and pray God heartily to forgive them; and in perticuler, my Lord Primate I am verie

rie glad that his Majeſtie is pleaſed to conceive mee; not merriting ſo ſevere, and heavy a puniſhment as the utmoſt execution of this ſentence; I am very glad and infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his, and beſeech God to turne it to him, that he may find mercy when hee hath moſt neede of it; I wiſh this Kingdome all the proſperite and happineſſe in the world: I did it living, and now dying it is my wiſh, I doe now profeſſe it from my heart, and doe moſt humbly recommend it unto every man here, and wiſh every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and conſider ſeriouſly whither the beginning of the happineſſe of a people ſhould be writien in Letters of bloud, I feare you are in a wrong way, & I deſire Almighty God that no one drop of my bloud may riſe up in judgment againſt you.

(My Lord,) I profeſſe my ſelf a true and obedient Son to the *Church* of *England*, to that *Church* wherin I was borne, and wherein I was bred; *proſperitie* and *happineſſe*, be ever to it: and whereas it hath bin ſaid that I have enclined to *Popery*, if it be an Objection worth anſwering, let me ſay truely, that from the time ſince I was one & twenty yeares of age, till this houre now going upon nine and forty, I never had thought in my heart, to doubt of the truth of my Religion in *England* and never any had the boldneſſe to ſuggeſt to me the contrary, to the beſt of my remembrance; and ſo being reconciled to the mercies of *Chriſt Ieſus* my Saviour, into whoſe boſome I hope ſhortly to be gathered to enjoy thoſe eternall happineſſes that ſhall neuer have end.

I deſire heartily the forgiveneſſe of every man: both for any raſh or unadviſed word, or deede, and deſire your prayers: And ſo my Lords farewell, fare-

well all the things of this world, LORD ſtrengthen my faith, give me confidence and aſſurance, in the merits of *Chriſt Ieſus*,

I deſire you, that you would be ſilent and joyne in Prayers with me, and I truſt in GOD we ſhall all meet and live eternally in Heaven, there toreceive the accompliſhment of all happineſſe, where every teare ſhall be wiped from our eyes, and every ſad thought from our hearts: And ſo GOD bleſſe this Kingdome, and *Ieſus* have mercy upon my Soule.

THis he ſpake with ſuch a grace and deliberation, that he did even mollifie the moſt ſtony hearts there preſent, and many that before reioyced at the newes of his ſentence, did now teſtifie their compaſſion by their teares; then he withdrew himſelfe to the middle of the Scaffold, and ſo went to Prayers, and after hee had prayed aboute the ſpace of halfe an houre, he roſe up, and by the helpe of one of his ſervants put off his doublet, and turned downe the coller of his ſhirte, and ſtroaked up his haire to the crowne of his head himſelfe, and one put a cap upon his head, which being done, he came to the ſide of the Scaffold againe, and deſired all the people to pray for him, ſo making a low obeylance, retired himſelfe againe, then taking firſt the Lord Primate of *Ireland* by the hand, and after the reſt of the Lords and

and Gentlemen that were on the Scaffold one after another tooke his leave of them all, and ſo kneeling downe before the Blocke, and prayed againe about the ſpace of a quarter of an houre, then layd downe his head to the Block, but bad the executioner not ſtrike untill hee had fitted his head thereunto, the which he tryed to doe twice, then laying downe his head the third time, wiſhed the Executioner not to ſtrike untill he lifted up his hands, then hee ſeemed ro make a ſhort prayer and lifted up his hands, at which time the Executioner ſtroke off his head at one blow, which was caught in a ſcarfe by two men, the Heads-man letting fall the fatall Axe, caught up his head and ſhewd it to all the people, his eyes rouled up and downe; but his body ſtirred very little, but the bloudy executioner is to be admird at for he laughed whileſt he had the Head in his hand.

Sic tranſit gloria mundi.

FINIS.